

Message Text

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QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 6011

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, TU, GR

SUBJ: THE AEGEAN DISPUTE

REF:A) ANKARA 5963 (DTG 040946Z AUG 76), B) ANKARA 5845
(DTG 300526Z JUL 76)

1. MINENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES KILIC ANNOUNCED LATE
AUGUST 4 THAT THE SEISMIC EXPLORATION SHIP SISMIK HAD
COMPLETED THE FIRST PART OF ITS PROGRAM AND HAD RETURNED TO
CANAKKALE. HE SAID " WITHIN A FEW DAYS" THE SISMIK
WILL SAIL ON ITS SECOND MISSION.

2. THE AUGUST 5 TURKISH PRESS REPORTED THAT THE NAVY
NAVIGATION, HYDROGRAPHY AND OCEANOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT HAD
ISSUED A SECOND NOTICE TO MARINERS REGARDING THE SISMIK,
THIS ONE COVERING THE PERIOD AUGUST 6-21. THE REGION
OF OPERATIONS REPORTEDLY COVERS A PENTAGONAL AREA FROM
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TEKEBURUN AT THE MOUTH OF THE DARDANELLES, WEST TO A POINT

SOUTHOF IMROZ (40 02' 00"N, 25 39'00" E), SOUTHWEST TO A POINT SOUTH OF THE SOUTHEASTERN TRIP OF LIMNOS (39 38'00"N, 25 22'00"E), SOUTHEAST TO A POINT WEST OF LESBOS (39 19'00"N, 25 39'00"E) AND NORTHZAST TO BABABURNU LIGHTHOUSE AT THE ENTRANCE TO EDREMIT BAY. (THIS REGION INCLUDES WATERS WITHIN WHAT WE UNDERSTAND ARE GREEK CONCESSION AREAS).

3. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS UILL CONVENE AUGUST 5 TO DISCUSS THE ACTIVITIES OF THE GREEK SEISMIC SHIP NAUTILUS WITH " SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF INTERFERENCE BY THE NAUTILUS IN THE SISMIC'S ACTIVITIES." IN A SIMILAR FASHION, HURRIYET REPORTED THAT MFA SEC GEN ELEKDAG HAD GIVEN A WRITTEN WARNING TO THE GREEK EMBASSY THAT THE GOT WOULD TAKE " SEVERE MEASURES" IF THE NAUTILUS ATTEMPTED ELECTRONIC JAMMING OF THE SISMIC'S SIGNALS.

4. EMBOFF DISCUSSED SOME OF PREVIOUS POINTS WITH MFA AEGEAN/LOS CHIEF TURMEN AUGUST 5. TURMEN LABELLED AS "THIRD-RATE FICTION" THE HURRIYET REPORT OF AN ELEKDAG WARNING TO THE GREEKS AND LIKE HIS COLLEAGUE HALIL DAG (REF A), ARGUED THAT SINCE THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF IS DISPUTED, ALL NATIONS ARE FREE TO CONDUCT SEISMIC RESEARCH. TURMEN WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM WHETHER A NOTICE TO MARINERS HAD BEEN ISSUED, BUT SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN EXPECTING ONE. WHEN EMBOFF ASKED IF THE REPORTED COORDINATES WERE ACCURATE AND WHETHER THE SISMIC ACCORDINGLY MIGHT BE ENTERING DISPUTED AREAS, TURMEN NOTED THAT THE GOT CONSIDERED THE CONTINENTAL SHELF UNDER ALL NON-TERRITORIAL WATERS OF THE AEGEAN AS DISPUTED AND THAT THE SISMIC HAD BEEN IN DISPUTED WATERS IN ITS INTIAL VOYAGE. EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT ONE DEFINITION OF DISPUTED WATERS MIGHT BE THOSE AREAS WITH OVERLAPPING CONCESSIONS. TURMEN STATED THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ONLY REMAINING GREEK CONCESSION IN THIS AREA WAS THE LVO CONCESSION AND THAT THE CONOCO CONCESSION IN THE LIMNOS AREA HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN. (HOWEVER, BY EMBASSY CALCULATIONS, AREA OUTLINED IN THE NEW NOTICE WOULD INCLUDE A PORTION OF THE AREA ALLOTTED BY GOG TO LVO). TURMEN ALSO STATED THAT GTO DID NOT KNOW WITH PRECISION WHAT AREAS THE GOG CONSIDERED DISPUTED. HE SAID THAT DURING THE RECENT

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TALKS IN ANKARA, GREEK AMBASSADOR COSMADOPOULOS HAD RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT AREAS THE GOG CONSIDERED DISPUTED BY SAYING, "YOU KNOW".
MACOMBER

UNQUOTE HABIB

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